

Wednesday Word

1/24/2024

Matthew 18:1-4 “At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, “Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?” And calling to him a child, he put him in the midst of them and said, “Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.”

Let’s be honest, I am a big kid at heart. I love baseball, squirt guns, whoopie cushions and I love throwing rocks on ice trying to break it. I think in my mind I am still a ten-year-old boy making bike jumps in my backyard.

For my birthday a few weeks ago, I wanted a Super Mario Brothers themed party. For those of you who may not be familiar, Mario is one of the first video games that made Nintendo popular and has grown into a multi-billion-dollar franchise. The idea is that an evil monster has kidnapped a beautiful princess and has hidden her in his castle. The goal of the video game is to navigate obstacle courses like levels and save the princess. There are over 50 Mario video games, and they are all pretty much the same. For my birthday I set up three TVs with different gaming systems, put Mario games on each one and made an arcade in our living room. We ate cupcakes and played Mario video games all day and into the night. It was a blast.

I honestly felt like a kid again letting the cares and worries of the world melt away into the simple pleasure of playing video games I played as a boy. The atmosphere we created in our living room was one of fun, laughter and nostalgia (at least for Naomi and me).

Jesus says we must become like a child to enter the kingdom of heaven. I believe this is a call and a reminder to set aside the worries of our world daily. To learn to live our life with complete and innocent trust in our God. Our world and our lives have become increasingly more complex and stressful with the rise of technology and the conflict in culture. We need to simplify like a child.

How do we become like a child in this context? We need to allow our hearts to find the simple yet powerful joy of serving Jesus. We need to pray and ask the

Holy Spirit for righteous contentment with our lives. That Jesus and Jesus alone will be our satisfaction- our bread of life.

You see- children are happy just to be loved and protected. Children are not concerned with the responsibilities and stresses of life because their parents take care of their needs. It is the same way with our God: He supplies our needs and is there for us to cast our burdens on. We need to position ourselves like little children and find the simple joy in just being loved by Jesus. Because Jesus is enough.

I love you and God loves you!

Pastor Eric